AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1 line 2 please add the following new paragraph:

This application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 application of PCT/US99/08568 filed 04/19/1999 which claims benefit of 60/082,454 filed 04/20/1998.

Please cancel the paragraph at page 4, lines 11-26.

Please add the following amended paragraph at page 4, lines 11-26:

Figure 1. Cloning, characterization of SYNIP expression and specificity of binding. A) Deduced amino acid sequences of the single open reading frame in the isolated SYNIP cDNA. B) Predicted structural organization of SYNIP functional domains. The numbers on the top indicate the amino acid residues that define the boundaries of these domains. C) Northern blot analysis of SYNIP mRNA expression in mouse tissues. The mouse multiple tissue mRNA blot was probed with the coding sequences of SYNIP cDNA. H, heart; Br, brain; Sp, spleen; Lu, lung; Li, liver; Sk, skeletal muscle; K, kidney; Te, testis. D) Specificity of SYNIP/WT and SYNIP/CT binding to Syntaxin 4. Cell lysates from 293T cells overexpressing Flag-tagged wild type SYNIP (SYNIP/WT) or the carboxyl terminal SYNIP (SYNIP/CT) were incubated with equal amounts of GST (lane 1), GST-Syn1A (lane 2), GST-Syn1B (lane 3), GST-Syn2 (lane 4), GST-Syn3 (lane 5) and GST-Syn4 (lane 6) proteins immobilized on glutathion-agarose beads. The retained proteins were immunoblotted with anti-Flag antibody. The SYNIP and cDNA sequence have been deposited in GeneBank Accession number AF 152924.